

AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) A method comprising:
providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to a directory structure;
receiving a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;
detecting in said received request a request to access an attribute attributed declared as a real-time external attribute;
responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure;
responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a first value format real-time attribute to a static attribute second value format, wherein said real-time attribute first value format is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said static attribute second value format is compatible with said directory access protocol; and
returning to a requester said converted real-time value attribute directly in said second format attribute value according to said directory access protocol, wherein while suppressing or avoiding storing and updating of said converted real-time attribute value in said directory structure is eliminated or avoided.

Claims 9 - 11 (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.

13. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said returning-comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

Claims 14 - 19 (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A computer readable memory comprising:
a computer readable memory suitable for encoding computer programs; and
one or more computer programs encoded by said computer readable memory and configured to:
provide at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute
associated with but external to a directory structure;
receive a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from
said associated directory structure;
detect in said received request a request to access an attribute attributed declared as a
real-time external attribute;
responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolve a real-time value
by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory
structure;
responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a first-value
format real-time attribute to a static attribute second-value format, wherein said
real-time attribute first-value format is incompatible with said directory access
protocol, and wherein said static attribute second-value format is compatible with
said directory access protocol; and
return returning to a requester said converted real-time value attribute directly in said
second format attribute value according to said directory access protocol, wherein
while suppressing or avoiding storing and updating of said converted real-time
attribute value in said directory structure is eliminated or avoided.
21. (previously presented) The computer readable memory as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.
22. (previously presented) The computer readable memory as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said returning comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

23. (currently amended) A system comprising a hardware means for performing a logical process, wherein said logical process comprises:
- providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute associated with but external to a directory structure;
- receiving a directory access protocol request for access to one or more attribute values from said associated directory structure;
- detecting in said received request a request to access an attribute attributed declared as a real-time external attribute;
- responsive to said detecting of a request for a real-time attribute, resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure;
- responsive to said resolving, converting said obtained attribute value from a first value format real-time attribute to a static attribute second value format, wherein said first value format real-time attribute is incompatible with said directory access protocol, and wherein said static attribute second value format is compatible with said directory access protocol; and
- returning to a requester said converted real-time attribute directly value in said second format attribute value according to said directory access protocol, wherein while suppressing or avoiding storing and updated of said converted real-time attribute value in said directory structure is eliminated or avoided.
24. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said hardware means comprises at least in part a microprocessor.
25. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said hardware means comprises at least in part an electronic circuit.
26. (currently amended) The system as set forth in Claim 25 wherein said electronic circuit is selected from a group comprising an application specific integrated circuit, and a programmable logic circuit.
27. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said detecting comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.
28. (previously presented) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said returning comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

29. (new) The method of Claim 8 wherein said resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure further comprises selecting according to a predetermined selection schema a real-time attribute processor from a plurality of available real-time attribute processors, invoking said selected real-time attribute processor, and wherein said resolving is performed by said invoked real-time attribute processor.

30. (new) The method of Claim 29 wherein said predetermined selection schema comprises a schema employing a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute to identify a real-time attribute processor for selection.

31. (new) The computer readable memory of Claim 20 wherein said resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure further comprises selecting according to a predetermined selection schema a real-time attribute processor from a plurality of available real-time attribute processors, invoking said selected real-time attribute processor, and wherein said resolving is performed by said invoked real-time attribute processor.

32. (new) The computer readable memory of Claim 31 wherein said predetermined selection schema comprises a schema employing a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute to identify a real-time attribute processor for selection.

33. (new) The system of Claim 23 wherein said logical process resolving a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure further comprises a logical process selecting according to a predetermined selection schema a real-time attribute processor from a plurality of available real-time attribute processors, invoking said selected real-time attribute processor, and wherein said resolving is performed by said invoked real-time attribute processor.

34. (new) The system of Claim 33 wherein said predetermined selection schema comprises a schema employing a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute to identify a real-time attribute processor for selection.